CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE *re*: FIRING ON THE WORKERS OF THE DANDELI WEST COAST PAPER MILLS

Sri S. S. SHETTAR (Hubli).— Sir, I call the attention of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to the police firing that took place on 11th instant at Dandeli.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK (Belgaum).—Sir, I call the attention of the Government to the police firing on workers on 12th instant at Dandeli.

† **Sri MANIK RAO PATIL** (Deputy Minister for Home).—On receipt of a complaint on 10th September 1968 from one worker, Sri Somachandra Basappa Savare of West Coast Paper Mills, Dandeli, against the security watchman Naik and two others for assault with a knife and stick, a case was registered in Dandeli Police Station Crime No. 56/68 u/s 324, 323, 342 IPC. The P.S.I., Dandeli, immediately proceeded to the West Coast Paper Mills and started investigation. The second shift labourers (300–400) of the Mills demanded the police on duty before the main gates to arrest and handcuff Sri Nadkarni, Chief Security Officer, and other watchmen for assaulting Sri Savare and further insisted that they must be paraded up to Police Station on foot. The investigating Officer assured them that legal action would be taken. But they insisted that action should be taken immediately and in their presence started shouting. The other workers also joined them and the crowd swelled to 500–800 shouting at the Police to arrest and handcuff Sri Nadkarni. The Police tried to pacify the mob. But it is reported that the mob started pelting stones at the Police and the Security men. The Police warned the mob not to throw stones but to disperse. The mob gave a deaf ear to the warning of the police, rushed inside the Mill throwing stones, water bottles, iron nails, etc., and damaged office buildings, vehicles and also caused injuries to the Police. As the crowd became violent, the police resorted to a lathi charge. But, this did not have the desired effect and the Police again warned the furious mob to disperse. But the mob forcibly entered the premises by breaking the wooden door and surrounded the police and security men and pelted stones. This endangered the life of the police and security men.

In fact 14 policemen and 10 security men were injured. In these circumstances, the Police had no other alternative but to open fire on the unruly mob in self-defence and in defence of persons and property. In all, 2 rounds with revolver and 6 rounds with muskets were fired. As a result of the firing 7 persons were injured. One person was injured in the melee. The injured were sent to the K.M.C. Hospital, Hubli. The injured are reported to be recovering. In this connection a case in crime No. 57/68 u/s 147. 148, 119, 353, 323, 427 IPC was registered at the Dandeli Police Station. The Superintendent of Police, the Assistant Commissioner, Karwar, and the Taluka Magistrate are camping at Dandeli with adequate force. The District Magistrate also visited

Dandeli. Magisterial enquiry by S.D.M. has been ordered. Patrolling continued in all the affected areas. The situtation is reported to be under control. One company of M.S.R.P. and one Platoon each from Dharwar and Belgaum, of Armed Reserve Police have been sent.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Sri RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE (Minister for Finance).—Sirr, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the audit report on the Accounts of the Mysore State Financial Corporation for the year ended 31st March 1967 under sub-section (7) of section 37 of the State Finance Corporation Act, 1951.

STATEMENT OF SUPPLEMFNTARY AND ADDITIONAL DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1968-69 (1st INSTALMENT)

Presentation

Sri RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE.—Sir, I beg to present a statement showing the Schedule for supplementary and Additional Demands for Grants for the year 1968-69 (first instalment) as required under article 205 of the Constitution of India.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The report and the schedule laid on the Table.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. SPEAKER.—Before the next item on the agenda is taken up, I want to refer to certain questions raised on the floor of the House and I shall try to dispose of them briefly.

A point raised by Sri K. H. Patil relating to the motion he has given notice of under Rule 146 of the Rules of Procedure that the Report of the Mysore State Khadi and Village Industries Board for the year 1967-68 laid on the Table of the House on 11th September 1968 be taken into consideration.

It appears the Hon'ble Member committed a mistake. We shall take action upon that afterwards. The Chair could not take action, because the member has referred only to the report of the year 1967-68.